

CVS16:32:gtv

5750

ser: 243
FEB 29 1968

from: Commanding Officer, USS LEXINGTON (CVS-16)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05A5G)

Subj: Command History

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12

Encl: (1) USS LEXINGTON (CVS-16) Command History for 1967

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded herewith.

E.W. GENDRON

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OPNAV (OP-09B9) 

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USS LEXINGTON (CVS-16) COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1967

I. CHRONOLOGY OF OUTSTANDING EVENTS

23 January 1967	First A-7 carrier landing for Essex class carrier was made on LEXINGTON
12 April 1967	Host to senior NATO members of each of 18 NATO countries
2 May 1967	Host to National Convention of Navy League
7-10 July 1967	Visit to Galveston
11 July 1967	Most carrier landings ever made in a daylight period: 611
10 August 1967	Change of Command
17 October 1967	200,000th Arrested Landing
25-30 October 1967	Visit to New Orleans
28 October 1967	Commissioning of Jr. NROTC Unit at St. Aloysius High School, New Orleans
14 November 1967	First C-2A lands aboard an Atlantic Fleet carrier.

II. NARRATIVE

A. Command Organization. LEXINGTON commanding officers:

Captain Jack C. Neishman	19 August 1966 to 10 August 1967
Captain Edward W. Gendron	10 August 1967 to Present

LEXINGTON is homeported at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, and is the training carrier for basic, advanced, and fleet carrier qualifications. LEXINGTON is under the operational control of the Chief of Naval Air Basic Training when in the Pensacola area and under the operational control of the Chief of Naval Air Advanced Training when in the Corpus Christi, Texas area. LEXINGTON also conducts an extensive public relations program which is coordinated by the Chief of Naval Air Training.

B. Activities. On 10 January LEXINGTON hosted a civilian orientation cruise from New York. A member of this group was Mr. Hugh Downs, broadcaster for NBC. Navy photographers from the Naval Air Technical Training Unit and LEXINGTON conducted extensive filming for possible showing on the NBC-TV "Today Show", 6 February, 1967.

After routine Basic Carqual and Advanced Carqual weeks in the Pensacola and Corpus Christi operating areas, respectively, LEXINGTON departed NAS Pensacola 23 January enroute to the Key West operating area. While enroute to Key West A-7 carrier suitability trials for Essex class carriers were conducted. Upon arriving in the Key West operating area carrier qualifications with VAM-123 were

conducted flying A6's and A-3's. On 25 January carrier qualifications with VAW-12 and VAW-33 flying E-1B's and EA-1's were conducted. LEXINGTON refueled the USS RICHARD E. BYRD (DDG-23) on 27 January. A restricted availability period commenced 29 January at the Naval Station, Mayport, Florida.

LEXINGTON spent the month of February in a restricted availability status at NAVSTA Mayport. Jacksonville shipyards was contracted for major repairs on the catapult and arresting gear and engineering spaces.

On the port catapult a nose launch was installed, enabling it to handle such aircraft as the A-6. Previously such launches were made only on the starboard catapult. Numerous major services changes were completed on the arresting gear including the installation of a new type high-speed sheave with thrust bearings. Other work in the flight deck area included repairs to the expansion joints fore and aft, the replacement of 8,500 board feet of planking on the flight deck, and the installation of a white floodlighting system for night operations. All eight boilers were torn down and rebricked. Cost of repairs completed in the 5-week period amounted to \$350,000.

On 6 February twenty-two (22) minutes of television time on the NBC-TV "Today Show" which was filmed on LEXINGTON was dedicated to Naval Aviation.

On 7 March 1967, LEXINGTON departed NAVSTA Mayport enroute to NAS Pensacola. During the third quarter of the fiscal year 1967, LEXINGTON steamed 10,021 nautical miles while consuming 2,798,081 gallons of fuel.

On 26 March 1967, the traditional Easter Sunrise Service was held on LEXINGTON's flight deck. Some 2,800 civilians and Naval personnel were in attendance. On the following day the Lex hosted the favorite of her many groups...LEXINGTON's dependents. 445 guests were onboard to observe a day of flight operations. To conclude an eventful month, LEXINGTON provided a special cruise for 37 members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Military Committee on 29 March 1967.

On 18 April a new fleet record of 542 arrested day landings was established. The Lex departed Pensacola for Mayport to host the National Convention of the Navy League which was being held in Jacksonville, Florida, on 2 May. A fire power demonstration, carrier qualifications, and underway refueling were observed by 487 Navy League members. Participating in the demonstration were VAP-62,

CRAW-4, and the USS BYRD (DDC-23). The fleet record for the most arrested landings during daylight hours was raised to 552 on 16 May. During the period 7-10 July, LEXINGTON visited Galveston, Texas, and hosted approximately 28,000 people. Change of command took place at sea off Pensacola on 10 August 1967, when Captain E.W. Gendron relieved Captain J.C. Neishman.

On 17 October 1967, LEXINGTON recorded its 200,000th arrested landing. The pilot for this event was Captain E.W. Gendron, the Commanding Officer, and the co-pilot was LCDR C. Brune, the assistant CIC Officer. The commissioning of a Junior Naval NROTC unit took place onboard LEXINGTON on 28 October 1967. The Chief of Naval Operations, ADM Thomas Moorer conducted commissioning ceremonies. During the New Orleans visit LEXINGTON hosted 37,000 people. LEXINGTON concluded 1967 flight operations having completed 208,162 arrested landings which included 33,318 for the calendar year 1967.

III. DOCUMENTARY ANNEXES

A. Copies of the following are attached:

Public Affairs Press Kit

General Visiting Handout

Guest Booklets

Roster of Officers

Photograph commemorating 200,000th landing